

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USBERL 01884 101105Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7452

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 1884

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

EYES ONLY FOR S/S DAVID ANDERSON

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS:
SUBJECT: REINHOLD TIMM SKETCH OF PRESIDENT CARTER

REF: STATE 198787

1. I MET WITH REINHOLD TIMM YESTERDAY TO DISCUSS HIS INTENTIONS FOR THE SKETCH OF PRESIDENT CARTER WHICH HAS BEEN SENT TO WASHINGTON WITH THE REQUEST THAT IT BE AUTOGRAPHED BY THE PRESIDENT AND RETURNED TO TIMM IN BERLIN.
2. TIMM TOLD ME THAT HE INTENDS TO INCLUDE THE SKETCH IN AN EXHIBITION OF "BERLIN PAINTINGS" WHICH WILL BE SHOWN IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC. HE FURTHER INTENDS TO HAVE ABOUT TWENTY REPRODUCTIONS OF THE AUTOGRAPHED SKETCH MADE FOR PRESENTATION TO THE RATHAUS, TO THE MISSION, TO THE DEPARTMENT, ETC. HE WOULD INTEND TO KEEP THE ORIGINAL IN HIS PRIVATE COLLECTION.
3. I EXPLAINED WHITE HOUSE SENSITIVITY TO THE USE OF THE PRESIDENT'S SIGNATURE IN ANY WAY WHICH MIGHT BE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 USBERL 01884 101105Z

CONSTRUED AS COMMERCIAL. TIMM REPLIED THAT HE HAS NO INTENTION WHATSOEVER OF OFFERING FOR SALE THE ORIGINAL OR ANY OF THE COPIES OR OF USING THE SKETCH FOR ANY OTHER COMMERCIAL PURPOSE. WHEN I ASKED IF TIMM WOULD BE WILLING TO WRITE ME A LETTER GIVING THOSE ASSURANCES, HE SUGGESTED THAT I DRAFT THE LETTER WHICH HE WOULD BE PLEASED TO SIGN. I WOULD PROPOSE SOMETHING ALONG THE FOLLOWING

LINES, IF YOU AGREE. BEGIN TEXT.

I WISH TO CONFIRM OUR CONVERSATION OF AUGUST 9, 1978 IN WHICH I GAVE YOU MY ASSURANCE THAT THE KETCH OF PRESIDENT CARTER WHICH I DID DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO BERLIN AND REPRODUCTIONS WHICH I INTEND TO MAKE FROM IT WHEN IT IS RETURNED AUTOGRAPHED BY THE PRESIDENT WILL NOT BE SOLD OR WILL NOT BE USED FOR ANY OTHER COMMERCIAL PURPOSE. I INTEND TO USE THIS SKETCH AS PART OF AN EXHIBITION OF BERLIN PAINTINGS WHICH WILL BE SHOWN AT VARIOUS PLACES IN GERMANY AND PERHAPS ELSEWHERE AND TO RETAIN THE ORIGINAL IN MY PRIVATE COLLECTION. I INTEND TO HAVE REPRODUCTIONS OF THE SKETCH MADE FOR PRESENTATION TO THE SENAT OF BERLIN FOR DISPLAY AT THE RATHAUS SCHOENEBOURG, TO THE US MISSION, TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT, TO THE WHITE HOUSE, AND OTHER SUITABLE INSTITUTIONS. I INTEND THIS AS AN EXPRESSION OF FRIENDSHIP AND GOOD WILL TOWARD THE PRESIDENT AND THE UNITED STATES WITH NO COMMERCIAL MOTIVATION.

SINCERELY, REINHOLD TIMM. END TEXT.

4. IF YOU AGREE, I WILL SUGGEST THAT TIMM ADDRESS SUCH A LETTER TO ME. I FEEL SURE THAT HE WOULD BE WILLING TO ACCEPT ANY ADDITIONS WHICH YOU MIGHT LIKE TO SUGGEST AFTER YOUR CONSULTATIONS WITH THE WHITE HOUSE.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 USBERL 01884 101105Z

5. FURTHER BACKGROUND: OUR MEETING YESTERDAY WAS THE FIRST TIME I HAD MET TIMM. BASED UPON THIS MEETING AND COMMENTS FROM THE FEW PEOPLE WITH WHOM I HAVE DISCUSSED HIM IN BERLIN, I GATHER THAT HE IS A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL ARTIST AND GALLERY PROPRIETOR. HE HAS DONE SIMILAR SKETCHES OF COUNTLESS CELEBRITIES (POLITICIANS, MUSICIANS, ACTORS, ROYALTY, ETC.), MANY OF WHICH ARE ON DISPLAY IN HIS STUDIO. HE SHOWED ME, FOR EXAMPLE, AUTOGRAPHED SKETCHES OF PRESIDENT SCHEEL, WILLY BRANDT, LEONARD BERNSTEIN, HERBERT VON KARAJAN, ETC. SIMILAR TO THE SKETCH OF THE PRESIDENT WHICH HE RECENTLY COMPLETED. MY JUDGMENT IS THAT HE IS SINCERE IN HIS ASSURANCE THAT HE DOES NOT INTEND TO OFFER THE SKETCH OR REPRODUCTIONS OF IT FOR SALE. THERE WOULD VERY LIKELY BE SOME PR VALUE TO TIMM DERIVING FROM PRESENTATION CEREMONIES BUT I DO NOT BELIEVE HE HAS ANY COMMERCIAL MOTIVATION BEYOND THAT. IN THIS CONNECTION TIMM SHOWED ME A SCRAPBOOK CONTAINING PHOTOGRAPHS AND PRESS COVERAGE OF HIS PRESENTING A PAINTING TO QUEEN ELIZABETH DURING HER RECENT VISIT TO BERLIN AND VARIOUS OTHERS OF HIS WORKS TO OTHER CELEBRITIES.

6. PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU NEED ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMA-

TION FROM ME OR TIMM AND IF YOU DESIRE FOR ME TO OBTAIN
WRITTEN ASSURANCES FROM HIM WITH REGARD TO THE SKETCH.NELSON

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